

time. In an era that predated Bill Clinton's decoupling of human rights and trade, Scoop Jackson and Charlie Vanik insisted that the Soviet Union respect human rights before it could receive most favored nation trading status. Because of Scoop Jackson's and Charlie Vanik's courage and commitment, hundreds of thousands of oppressed people—mainly Soviet Jews—were able to leave tyranny behind and start new lives as free people.

Madam Speaker, it is no longer fashionable to talk about the linkage between human rights and trading privileges. But, if anything, the issue is even more relevant today than when Charlie Vanik stood up for oppressed people. That's why I say Charlie Vanik was ahead of his time.

Just ask Wei Jing Sheng, who continues to fight for human rights for the millions of oppressed people in China. Ask the family and friends of Santiago Rafael Cruz, who was murdered earlier this year in Monterrey, Mexico, where he fought hard to get human rights for peasant workers.

We see the trafficking in human beings from Mexico to the United States. But the proponents of free trade fundamentalism still deny any linkage between trade and human rights. We see the gross human rights abuses in China and the growing unrest among rural people there. Yet we're told there's no connection between trade and human rights.

Despite all the abuses that perpetrated against poor people around the world in the name of globalization, the free trade crowd refuses to acknowledge any connection between trade and human rights.

We see all these things and we can't help but wish for more Charlie Vaniks—for more Members like him—genial, compassionate and humble public servants who have the eyes to see injustice and the heart to do something about it.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to former Congressman Charles Vanik, a longtime representative of northeast Ohio and a strong human rights advocate.

While I did not serve with Congressman Vanik in Congress, his work to improve the quality of life for others is well-known. Throughout his 26-year career in Congress, he worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents and on the issues that he cared about, including: Social Security, Medicare, the environment and trade.

As many of my colleagues have mentioned, Congressman Vanik is most widely known for co-authoring an amendment to the 1974 Trade Reform Bill with the late Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson that linked a country's favored trade status to its record on human rights. Specifically, their Jackson-Vanik amendment tied the former Soviet Union's trade status to its willingness in allowing freer Jewish emigration. As a result, an estimated 2 million Jewish citizens were permitted to immigrate to other countries.

Congressman Vanik also worked with Congressman Ralph Regula to create the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and was involved with the important work of cleaning up of the Great Lakes.

Madam Speaker, Ohio, our Nation and the international community have lost a true public servant with the passing of Congressman Vanik. I join my colleagues in honoring him and in expressing our condolences to his family.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to join in the tributes to the life and career of former Ohio Congressman Charles Vanik, who passed away in August at age 94.

Born in Cleveland in 1913, Charles Vanik recognized the call to service long before his 26-year House career began. After earning his law degree, he was elected to the Cleveland City Council and the Ohio State Senate—all before the age of 30. His career in elective office was interrupted by World War II, where he served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres as a member of the Naval Reserve. Following the war, he held a judgeship in Cleveland prior to his election to Congress in 1954.

As my colleagues have noted in prior Floor tributes to Congressman Vanik, his congressional legacy was defined by his many contributions to human rights around the world—especially through what came to be known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. This measure, which passed with broad bipartisan support, requires the United States to gauge the human rights records of foreign nations when assessing potential trade deals. As a result of Jackson-Vanik, the Soviet Union was compelled to allow more than two million people of faith to escape the religious persecution they faced under this cruel regime. The Amendment made Charles Vanik a target of scorn from the Soviet-controlled media—something he wore as a badge of honor.

Throughout his career, Congressman Vanik well served the people of his district and fought for freedom around the world. I offer his family and loved ones my condolences at their loss.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congressman Charles Vanik, who passed away earlier this year. There are two things we do in Washington—politics and policy. Congressman Vanik excelled at policy and understood politics well enough to make a difference with the policies that he fought to see enacted. A champion of the underdog and an unfailing advocate for

the poor, Congressman Vanik's legacy was solidified in 1974 by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Reform Bill linking the former Soviet Union's trade status with the ability of Russian Jews to emigrate freely.

Congressman Vanik served in the House from 1955 to 1981, representing his Cleveland-area constituents well. A 13-term veteran of the U.S. House, Congressman Vanik graciously stepped aside from his original district in 1968 to make way for Louis Stokes, who became the first African-American Congressman from Ohio. He also had his own particular style, and those privileged to have served with Congressman Vanik remember his black suits and bow ties in addition to his utter disdain to having to raise re-election funds. His constituents responded to his hard work and his commitment to them by continuing to re-elect him, proving that a hard-charging public servant who's in Congress for the right reasons will be returned to continue his work.

Congressman Vanik's public service began after graduating from Western Reserve University and Law School when he entered the Navy during World War II. Following the war, he served as a municipal judge and in the Ohio Senate before first running for Congress in 1954.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Congressman Vanik's family and friends, and we are grateful for his dedicated public service.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to former Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio, who died Wednesday August 31 at his home in Jupiter, Florida at age 94.

Looking back at the career and mission of Representative Vanik, it is an utterly refreshing example of a legislator who didn't let politics get in the way of his goals and vision for his constituents and people all over the world. Many of my colleagues have already mentioned the historic Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Act of 1974. This critical human rights legislation was the mark on the map for Charles Vanik with regards to those outside the state of Ohio, but for us Ohioans, we know Congressman Vanik as a lifelong stalwart for all of those who are socially and economically oppressed.

Charles Vanik led a life of complete selflessness. After receiving his law degree he was on the City Council and in the Ohio legislature where he was valued for his consistent effort and achievements. He then joined the Navy during World War II. After his time in the service, Charles Vanik became a municipal judge until 1954 when he first ran for Congress. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax law, Congressman Vanik was known for his fights against big business tax breaks in the halls and corridors of Congress as he was known for his signature bow ties.

Congressman Vanik served honorably and long as a dedicated public servant. Mr. Vanik,

who had rarely spent little more than \$3,000 for any of his re-election bids, became increasingly discouraged with the changing political world and the need to siphon time and resources away from addressing the concerns of his constituents. He chose not to run for re-election in 1980.

Charles Vanik's life and his commitment to principle are truly remarkable. I believe one of the most important things we should learn from the actions and words of Charles Vanik is to constantly hold ourselves to the highest possible standards, no matter what the political environment or what criticism you might face. The United States Congress and the state of Ohio will miss one of its greatest public officials, Congressman Charles Vanik.

REMEMBERING FORMER REP-
RESENTATIVE CHARLES VANIK
OF OHIO

HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is important to commend the service of one of Ohio's distinguished public servants. Charles Vanik served for 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, and we are better for his service. He died at the age of 94 in September.

Representative Vanik is best remembered for his work that allowed more Russian Jews to immigrate to this country. During his tenure in the House, Representative Vanik of Cleveland also fought tirelessly for Social Security and Medicare.

Nearly all of Representative Vanik's life was devoted to public service. In the Navy, as a Cleveland Municipal Judge, in the Ohio Senate and through 26 years here in the House he worked tirelessly for the public. The great State of Ohio and this country mourn his passing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Betty, their children and grandchildren.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES
VANIK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our former colleagues, Congressman Charlie Vanik. For 26 years, he was an admirable spokesman not only for the people of his district, but for the nation.

During his time in office, Congressman Vanik was one of Congress's most vocal advocates for human rights. In 1974, he co-authored an amendment to a trade law that required the United States to assess the human rights records of foreign countries before granting them special privileges. This law put pressure on the Soviet Union to allow freer emigration, and as a result, more than 2 million people were able to leave the Soviet Union in search of a better life.

While he was a member of Congress, he never forgot where he came from or the peo-

ple he represented. During his time in office he helped to pass several federal programs, including the federal school lunch program, that would help the people in his district and throughout the country improve their livelihoods. In addition, he is remembered by his former colleagues as a savvy, gifted speaker who had the ability to make every person in a room smile.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of Congressman Charlie Vanik. May he rest in peace, and may his service to his country and to this body always be remembered honorably. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his son, Jon; his daughter, Phyllis; and two grandchildren.

PASSING OF REPRESENTATIVE
CHARLES VANIK

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man, a 26-year veteran of this distinguished body and an outstanding American.

The Honorable Charles Albert Vanik worked tirelessly to promote the civil rights of all people. His dedication to this cause extended further than the boundaries of our country and touched countless lives. The Congressman felt it necessary that every individual throughout the globe should fully enjoy the natural rights of mankind.

This commitment was most evident in his decision in 1968 to shift to the 22nd Congressional District following redistricting to allow a then up and coming African American politician by the name of Louis Stokes to run for and ultimately win the 21st Congressional District seat.

Charles Vanik was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He represented my city and my extended community in a distinguished fashion. Serving as a councilman, a judge and a member of the state legislature before joining the United States Congress, he developed a reputation as a caring individual.

Congressman Vanik was wholeheartedly a representative of the people. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he felt that both individuals and enterprises alike should equally contribute to society. The respect that his friends and fellow Members of Congress held for him, presented several opportunities for his policy objectives to be adopted in statutes relating to both taxes and trade.

Most importantly, this son of immigrants personified all that is great about our Nation and our people. He cared for his neighbors, he was passionate about freedom and he wanted to help those in need.

I had many opportunities to personally speak with Representative Vanik. The most memorable of these meetings was when the National Institutes of Health dedicated their new laboratory facility in honor of my predecessor Congressman Louis Stokes.

It is with great respect and admiration that I ask this esteemed body to keep his wife, Betty, and children, John and Phyllis, in our hearts and prayers. May we all rejoice in having known such a great man and cherish both our memories and his legacy.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, the news of the passing of Charles Vanik was truly a sad event for Ohio. We lost a genuine statesman who always worked for the betterment of his country, state, and community.

While I was not privileged to have met him personally, his reputation, legislative accomplishments, and dedication to making life better for those less fortunate were well known throughout the state.

Congressman Vanik was best known for the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Bill in 1974, which forced the Soviet Union to open up its borders. Arguably one of the most successful pieces of legislation in forcing foreign policy changes, this provision was highly successful in opening up the USSR. This was just one of the many principled stands he took to stand up for his beliefs in defense of those who needed the most help.

My heart and prayers go out to his family. Ohio and the rest of the country join in mourning this great loss.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE VANIK

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a former member of this body from my home state of Ohio—Mr. Charles Vanik—who represented Ohio's 21st Congressional district, the east side of Cleveland, which later became the 22nd District.

After serving on the Cleveland City Council and in the Ohio State Senate, Charlie Vanik enlisted in the Naval Reserves during World War II and fought in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. He later went on to serve as a local judge before being elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1954.

Known for his black suits and bow ties, Charlie was a champion of working class families and was most famous for his strong stance against nations that denied freedom to its citizens—particularly the Soviet Union.

In 1974 he partnered with then-Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson to craft what became known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which denied normal trade relations to certain countries that oppressed its people and restricted the freedom of emigration. That amendment was offered to a trade reform bill and was intended to allow Jewish refugees to escape from the Soviet Union. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment is still on the books today.

Charlie Vanik is survived by his wife, two children and two grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers in the coming months.